

## Maryland Correctional Enterprises Receives International Attention

By Renata Seergae, *MCE Executive Assistant/Legislative Liaison/Public Information*

It's not unusual for MCE shops to receive an occasional tour from outside visitors, including members of the media. In fact, it's a regular occurrence this time of year as the Meat Plant gets ready to process turkeys for the Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving Dinner. This year, MCE will receive an even bigger spotlight-some international attention- as the subject of a two part series by **Voice of America (VOA)**.



*VOA Crew prepares for the shoot*

VOA is funded by the United States Federal Government and provides a wide range of programming for radio, TV, and internet. It is broadcast outside of the U.S. to various countries across the world and is produced in 43 different languages. The organization produces about 1,500 hours of news and feature programming each week for an estimated global audience of 123 million people. The goal of VOA is *“to promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding through multimedia communication of accurate, objective, and balanced news, information and other programming about America and the world to audiences overseas.”*

A crew of three spent the better part of a day touring the shops at Maryland Correctional Institution at Hagerstown, getting a feel for MCE's mission and goal to provide work skills and work ethics to thousands of offenders every year.

Wei Hu, reporter and producer for VOA, said she wanted to showcase MCE and the importance of active work programs, especially considering MCE is one of the most successful in the United States. Hu said, “It's really a program to educate others. There will be nothing controversial in these pieces. It's all about education.”



*VOA tours the MCE Meat Plant*

The crew interviewed MCE Plant Managers, inmate workforce, and institution staff at MCI-H. In addition to touring the Meat, Metal, and Upholstery Plants, VOA visited inmate living quarters, the chow hall, and recreation areas to see where offenders spend their time when they are not working. Stay tuned for more information on the Voice of America story.